

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 19, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 16, 20 and 23 are pending. Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 18, 19, 21, 22, 24-27 and 30 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 16, 20 and 23 have been amended. Claims 16 and 20 are in independent form.

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 19 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim. Independent Claim 16, the base claim of Claim 19, has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claim 19. Independent Claim 20, the base claim of Claim 22, has been rewritten to include all of the limitations of Claim 22. Accordingly, independent Claims 16 and 20 are believed to be allowable. Since Claim 23 depends from Claim 16, Claim 23 is also believed to be allowable.

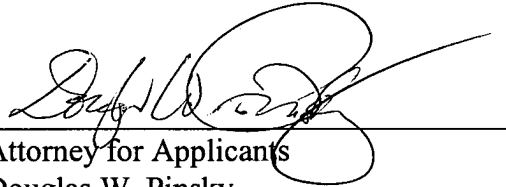
Applicants disagree with the reasons for allowable subject matter given in the Office Action because, for example, none of the indicated claims recites a "water repellent layer." Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully submit that each of the pending claims is allowable for its combination of claimed features.

In view of the foregoing amendments, the subject application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Favorable consideration and prompt passage to issue of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Douglas W. Pinsky', is written over a horizontal line.

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